

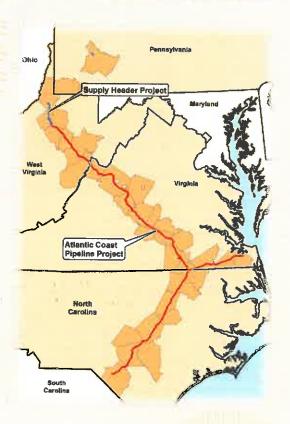
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Office of Energy Projects

PROJECT UPDATE FOR THE SUPPLY HEADER PROJECT AND ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE PROJECT

**June 2015** 

PF15-5-000 and PF15-6-000



#### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this mailing is to provide you with an update on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC or Commission) environmental review of the pending application for the Supply Header Project (SHP) and the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) Project, what's next in our review process, the issues gathered during scoping, and how you can stay informed.

# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

For the SHP, Dominion Transmission, Inc. (Dominion) plans to construct and operate about 36.7 miles of natural gas pipeline loop in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and modify four existing compressor stations located in Westmoreland and Green Counties, Pennsylvania, and Marshall and Wetzel Counties, West Virginia. For the ACP Project, Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC (Atlantic) plans to construct and operate 556 miles of variable diameter natural gas pipeline in West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina. In addition, Atlantic plans to construct and operate three new compressor stations in Lewis County, West Virginia; Buckingham County, Virginia; and Northampton County, North Carolina. If the projects are approved, Dominion and Atlantic (collectively referred to as the Applicants) propose to begin initial construction activities in fall 2016. Construction of the projects is anticipated to take 2 years, with an estimated in-service date of November 2018.

#### WHERE WE ARE IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

The FERC is the lead federal agency responsible for conducting the environmental review of the projects. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the FERC is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the planned projects. The U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, and the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources are cooperating in the development of the EIS. This EIS will identify and describe potentially affected lands and resources, disclose the potential impacts on these resources, evaluate alternatives, and describe, as appropriate, any avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures necessary to reduce the potential impacts of the SHP and ACP projects. In addition to the Applicants' applications and project data, we will analyze information that has been filed by other stakeholders and commenters in the proceeding. All substantive issues identified by commenters will be included in the EIS. We note that the FERC has no direct jurisdiction over natural gas drilling, either conventional or unconventional (fracking). In addition, the FERC EIS will only address environmental comments; non-environmental comments will be addressed in the Commission's Order issuing or denying a certificate.

On May 20, 2015, Dominion and Atlantic filed draft environmental resource reports that describe the planned facilities, potential impacts on environmental resources, and the companies' mitigation measures designed to minimize those impacts (the complete set of draft resource reports can be found at <a href="http://elibrary.FERC.gov/idmws/file\_list.asp?accession\_num=20150520-5023">http://elibrary.FERC.gov/idmws/file\_list.asp?accession\_num=20150520-5023</a>). You are welcome to view these resource reports and provide comments to the FERC on the environmental issues addressed.

#### **ISSUES IDENTIFIED**

The Commission continues to receive comment letters about the SHP and ACP projects. These letters have come from potentially affected landowners, concerned citizens, agencies, elected officials, non-governmental organizations, and other interested parties. FERC staff is reviewing each comment letter to identify the environmental concerns that should be addressed through the environmental review process. The primary issues that continue to be raised include, but are not limited to:

- Route alternatives
- Pipeline integrity through karst areas, steep terrain, and erosive soils and landslide zones
- Impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat, including threatened and endangered species
- Impacts on groundwater (including water supplies and wells), springs, surface waters, and wetlands
- · Impacts on public lands, recreational and natural areas, and visual resources
- · Impacts on cultural resources, including battlefields, cemeteries/burial grounds, and historic districts
- Impacts on residences and residential property values
- Public health and safety, including emergency response
- · Impacts on air quality and ambient noise levels, especially related to compressor stations



Public Intervenors may request rehearing of the Opportunities Commission's decision

Commission issues Notice to Proceed with construction if applications are approved and once applicable conditions are met

## **NEXT STEPS**

We are currently reviewing and commenting on the information provided in the Applicants' draft resource reports. Our final comments on the draft resource reports will be issued on our public docket. This fall, the Applicants plan to file their applications and final resource reports. When we have all the information necessary to complete our analysis and write the EIS, we will issue a Notice of Schedule for Environmental Review. This notice will announce the target date for issuing the final EIS and disclose the federal authorization action/decision deadline for other agencies.

When the draft EIS is completed, a Notice of Availability will appear in the Federal Register, and the EIS will be mailed to the environmental mailing list for this proceeding. There will be a public review period to comment on the document. The comments we've received so far have helped the environmental and engineering staff identify and evaluate the potential impacts of the projects. Please stay involved and consider filing comments on the draft EIS when it is available. Staff will then complete the final EIS.

The Commission will consider the findings of the final EIS, along with all information in the record including non-environmental information, when it makes its decision on whether to approve or deny the projects.

### **HOW TO STAY INFORMED**

Go to the FERC website at <a href="http://www.ferc.gov">http://www.ferc.gov</a>. Click on the eLibrary link, click on "General Search" and enter the docket number (i.e., PF15-5 for SHP or PF15-6 for ACP). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at <a href="mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov">FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov</a> or toll free at 1-866-208-3676.

In addition, the FERC offers a free service called eSubscription that allows you to keep track of all issuances and submittals in specific dockets. Using this service can reduce the amount of time you spend monitoring our website by automatically providing you with electronic notification when new items are posted and providing direct links to the documents. To register for this service, go to:

http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp

While we believe that the internet is the best way to stay informed, we realize that not everyone has internet access. Therefore, any notices we issue will be sent in hard copy to our environmental mailing list.